

UNITED STATES SENATOR · MICHIGAN

DEBBIE STABENOW

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Contact: Dave Lemmon, Shanna Singh

Phone: 202-224-4822

U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin Introduce Senate Resolution Congratulating Detroit Red Wings on Stanley Cup Victory

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin (D-MI) this morning offered a resolution in the U.S. Senate congratulating the Detroit Red Wings on their 2002 Stanley Cup victory. Together, the Senators took to the floor of the U.S. Senate to commend the Red Wings on their third championship win in the past six years—and their tenth championship overall—and to thank retiring Coach Scotty Bowman for his nine years of superb leadership.

"It was a great thrill to join more than one million cheering fans yesterday at the Red Wings' victory parade. And I am happy now to bring that same kind of support to the floor of the United States Senate," said Stabenow. "The Wings, led by extraordinary coach Scotty Bowman, have given us yet another reason to be proud to be from Michigan. They truly deserve to be recognized as the champions they are."

The text of the resolution introduced today is as follows:

A RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Detroit Red Wings on winning the 2002 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Championship and again bringing the Cup home to Hockeytown.

Whereas on June 13, 2002, the Detroit Red Wings (in this resolution referred to as the "Red Wings") defeated the Carolina Hurricanes, 3–1, in game 5 of the National Hockey League championship series;

Whereas this victory marks the Red Wings' 10th Stanley Cup Championship, continuing the team's reign as the most storied American hockey team;

Whereas this victory marks the Red Wings' third Stanley Cup Championship in the past six years, establishing them as one of the great dynasties in the history of the National Hockey League;

Whereas the Red Wings, who average over 30 years of age, proved once again that talent and experience can triumph over more youthful competition;

continued

Stabenow—Stanley Cup Resolution June 18, 2002 Page Two

Whereas the Red Wings had the best record in the National Hockey League for the decade of the 1990s as well as this past year;

Whereas Nicklas Lidstrom, who has anchored the Detroit Defense for 11 years, became the first European-born player to win the Conn Smythe Trophy for the most valuable player in the playoffs;

Whereas Marian and Mike Ilitch, the owners of the Red Wings and community leaders in Detroit and Michigan, have returned Lord Stanley's Cup to Detroit yet again;

Whereas the Red Wings, who have played in Detroit since 1926, continue to hold a special place in the hearts of all Michiganders;

Whereas Detroit, otherwise known as "Hockeytown, U.S.A.", is home to the most loyal fans in the world;

Whereas the Red Wings are indebted to retiring head coach Scotty Bowman, who has brought the Red Wings to the playoffs 7 times in the last 8 years and who, with this year's victory, has earned his ninth Stanley Cup victory, surpassing his mentor Toe Blake for the most championships in league history;

Whereas the Red Wings are fortunate to have the leadership of team captain Steve Yzerman, who along with being one of the most respected athletes in all of sports, completed one of his best seasons ever despite a serious leg injury which will require surgery at the end of the season; and

Whereas each one of the Red Wings will be remembered on the most illustrious sports trophy, the Stanley Cup, as follows: Pavel Datsyuk, Boyd Devereaux, Kris Draper, Sergei Fedorov, Igor Larionov, Jason Williams, Steve Yzerman, Tomas Holmstrom, Luc Robitaille, Brendan Shanahan, Sean Avery, Ladislav Kohn, Brett Hull, Darren McCarty, Kirk Maltby, Chris Chelios, Mathieu Dandenault, Steve Duchesne, Jiri Fischer, Uwe Krupp, Maxim Kuznetsov, Nicklas Lidstrom, Fredrik Olausson, Jiri Slegr, Jesse Wallin, Dominik Hasek, and Manny Legace;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Senate congratulates the Detroit Red Wings on winning the 2002 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Championship.